Martin R #26332 (91)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRIEFING PAPER

DECLASSIFIED

HOW TO STEER FY 1981 AND FY 1982 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION THROUGH CONGRESS

1. THE ISSUE

The issue is how to get the Congress to act favorably and expeditiously on foreign aid legislation. This legislation contains funding for a wide variety of programs (security assistance, US participation in multilateral development banks, EXIM Bank, refugees, overseas anti-narcotics programs, etc.) crucial to successful implementation of the President's foreign policy. Over the years we have had increasing difficulty -- particularly in the House -- in convincing Congress to consider the aid appropriations bill at various stages during the legislative process. When it has been considered, we have managed to find the votes for a majority, but final passage of a conference report did not occur in FY 80 and we have thus far had no floor action on the FY 81 bill. As a result, the Department has been hamstrung in its foreign aid programs, operating under continuing resolutions, with both the FY 80 and 81 programs funded at the lower levels of preceding fiscal years. While there is a good chance that the current Congress will provide FY 81 authorization, there will be no FY 81 appropriations bill enacted and the new Administration will have to work for one early next year. At the same time, we will have to seek passage as early as possible of aid legislation for FY 82.

2. TIME CONSTRAINT

Since we expect the FY 81 authorization bill to pass in the special session, there is no constraint to be overcome. On the FY 82 authorization bill, the incoming Administration should consider a review of the current Administration's legislative proposal to determine what changes in funding levels or substance, if any, might be desirable. The most important thing is to try to get a bill as soon as possible. Considerable thought has already been given to the need to streamline and rationalize the increasingly unwieldy

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 6/7/83
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☒ RELEASABLE☒
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS